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## Cyber Security Boot Camp graduates class of 2006

*by Francis L. Crumb, AFRL Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — Thirty-five college students from across the nation were recognized last night as graduates of the 2006 Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE) Cyber Security Boot Camp, a 10-week program at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate.

Col. Daniel Ragsdale, vice dean of Education at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was the keynote speaker during ceremonies at The Beeches Restaurant. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, chairman of the House Science Committee, also addressed the graduates, as did Rome Mayor James Brown. Donald W. Hanson, director of the Information Directorate, presided over the ceremonies.

This year's class was composed of 19 Air Force cadets, three from the Army, two from the Navy, eight National Science Foundation Fellows and four civilians. Members of the class represented 28 states.

Since arriving in Rome on June 1, boot camp participants lived in a dormitory at Griffiss Business and Technology Park. They attended lectures presented by faculty from universities, industry and government covering specific areas in cyber security, such as legal issues, security policies, digital forensics or network security. The students were also assigned real-world problems to solve and wrote reports detailing solutions.

For three days each week, students worked with personal mentors on military and industry projects within AFRL.

The annual "ACE Hackfest," which divided cadets into Red Team attackers, Blue Team defenders and White Team referees, as they conducted a large scale cyber security exercise, was held at the AFRL Rome Research Site Aug. 7-8. Each Blue Team had responsibility for defending an enclave consisting of a dozen computers. Each Red Team had the ability to attack any of the Blue enclaves, with varying objectives of penetration, compromise, data modification and denial of service. The White Team refereed the battle and scored both Blue and Red teams in their ability to secure or capture flags.

"During the past 10 weeks, cadets were exposed to many of today's front-line network security tools used in commercial and Department of Defense enterprises," said Dr. Kamal Jabbour, ACE director. "A major benefit of being at the Air Force Research Laboratory is the access to real-world training and mentoring. That is something they cannot experience in a college classroom."

The ACE was developed in 2003 to address the challenge of President Bush's National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace by developing the top students in Air Force, Army and Navy pre-commissioning training programs, in addition to the best among civilian college students, into the next generation of cyber security leaders.

It was created through a public-private partnership including AFRL's Information Directorate, Syracuse University, the CASE Center of the New York State Office of Science Technology and Academic Research, the Griffiss Institute on Information Assurance and several corporations. The boot camp is a four-credit course offered through Syracuse University's L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science.

In 2005, the ACE Cyber Security Boot Camp was approved as an Air Force ROTC Professional Development Training (PDT) program, one of 10 such programs in the country to carry this designation, and the only program with a formal academic component, through its association with Syracuse University.

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